

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2018-19

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Legal Affairs

**HEARING ON 30 AUGUST 2018
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Answers to be lodged by: 25 September 2018

1. RE-ENGINEERING - COMMISSIONED OFFICER POSITIONS

Mr FULLER: There were just over 100 commissioned officer positions that were downgraded to constable positions, so there was not a net loss in overall police, and all of those people are gainfully employed within the NSW Police Force.

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Those 100 that have been downgraded are still being paid at the senior management rate.

Mr FULLER: The individuals were not downgraded; the positions were.

.....

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: How much was the cost of moving those 100 officers?

Mr FULLER: I would have to take that on notice but I can say that we estimated a savings of \$14.4 million through re-engineering and we have realised that.

ANSWER

I am advised:

There was no remuneration cost of moving these positions.

2. STAFF IN COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

A) The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: What was the total number of full-time equivalent [FTE] and part-time equivalent [PTE] staff employed in the commissioner's office prior to the re-engineering process commencing?

Mr FULLER: I would have to take that on notice but at the end of the day I took responsibility for youth as an issue and I established a new youth command, so it will certainly have dramatically increased because I have taken responsibility for an operational part of the organisation. But in regard to personal staff working for me, I have reduced that.

B) The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: What is the total number now in your office?

Mr FULLER: I would have to take that on notice but there is a difference between staff that sit under the commissioner's office because of the youth command situation and staff that work directly for me. I will take that on notice and will be able to answer that question.

ANSWER

I am advised:

As noted in the Commissioner's response during the hearing, post re-engineering, the Capability Performance and Youth Command led by Assistant Commissioner Joseph Cassar now reports directly to the Commissioner of Police.

Excluding the Capability Performance and Youth Command, the number of positions in the Commissioner's office decreased in the year to 30 June 2018.

3. EFFICIENCY DIVIDEND ON NON-FRONTLINE STAFF

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: How much was raised in that efficiency dividend and where did it come from?

Mr FULLER: In terms of non-frontline staff, it makes up a small percentage of the organisation. Again I will take it on notice, but it is around 3,000 of the 21,000 men and women who work for the NSW Police Force.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Savings from the NSW Government's efficiency dividend are outlined in the Budget Papers.

4. FIREARMS REGISTRY STAFF

Mr SHOEBRIDGE: Putting to one side a direction, has there been a reduction in resources or any loss of staff at the Firearms Registry?

Mr TROY GRANT: We will take that specifically on notice to give you any facts, but we do not believe so.

ANSWER

I am advised:

No.

5. TIMING OF DIRECTION RE COMMISSIONER'S PERMITS

Mr SHOEBRIDGE: Is it true that references to the commissioner have been asked to be removed from documentation relating to the Firearms Registry?

Mr FULLER: I directed them to be removed.

Mr SHOEBRIDGE: Why did you direct that references to you be removed from documentation from the Firearms Registry?

Mr FULLER: Because I did not approve for it to go on and it is not recognised in the Act as a commissioner's permit. Someone had made a decision locally to call it that, which is not accurate.

Mr SHOEBRIDGE: When did you make this direction?

Mr FULLER: I would have to take it on notice but it would have been in the last couple of months.

ANSWER

I am advised:

All then-named Commissioner's Permits were put on hold on 13 July 2018 until the paperwork could be amended to correctly refer to them as s 28(g) permits.

6. NUMBER OF COMMISSIONER'S PERMITS ISSUED

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Last week the Daily Telegraph reported, allegedly from information given to them by NSW Police, that there are only 21 so-called commissioner's permits out of 52,042 firearms licences issued in New South Wales that year. But, Commissioner, data provided to my office shows that there were not 21 of these so-called commissioner's permits but 140 issued last year. Why did you not correct the record on how many of these commissioner's permits were issued last year?

Mr FULLER: I will take it on notice, but I have got that in 2017 there were 94 permits issued and in 2018 there have been 80. But, nevertheless, there—

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): I have had information probably not dissimilar to you, that there were 94 issued to individuals in 2017 and 47 issued to business and club applicants in the same year—not 21, but together 140.

Mr FULLER: Yes.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Why did the police not correct the record on that?

Mr FULLER: I would have to check with our media unit. Obviously, there was not an intent by me to hide anything in terms of that. So if we have got it wrong I am happy to correct it.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): You say at least 94; the Daily Telegraph reported 21. Surely you have got a media monitoring unit. Why did you not correct that?

Mr FULLER: I will take that on notice and I will answer that question for you.

.....

Mr TROY GRANT: ... It is my understanding that the Daily Telegraph application under the Government Information (Public Access) Act [GIPAA] was specific to the question about permits relating to P650 forms. That 21, I suggest, was in relation to that component.

ANSWER

I am advised:

In 2017, the total number of Firearms Permit applications approved and issued to individuals in NSW under section 28(g) of the *Firearms Act 1996* was 94. 21 of these permits related to P650 forms (Undertake a Firearm Safety Training Course).

The application made by the Daily Telegraph under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act* was specific to the number of permits issued under section 28(g) of the Firearms Act 1996 relating to P650 forms. The information provided in response to the request was correct.

7. COMMISSIONER'S PERMIT REFUSALS

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Are you aware, Minister, that 22 of these permits were refused in 2017 but in this calendar year not a single request for a special commissioner's permit has been refused?

Mr TROY GRANT: I will have to take that on notice.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Commissioner, are you aware of the fact that there has not been a single request for a special permit refused this year?

Mr FULLER: I would have to, again, double-check it. But I would say—and the Minister raises a good point—that people ask different questions and expect to get the same answer. Again, you mentioned the Daily Telegraph and the source. We will get our media people to check exactly what was asked by the Daily Telegraph and exactly what we provided to them.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The information provided to Mr Shoebridge in response to his request under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act* is correct.

8. LEGAL ADVICE GIVEN TO MINISTER RE LECC TRAVEL

Mr TROY GRANT: The Crown Solicitor advised, and the Solicitor General agreed, that it is not a function of the commission under the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act or any other Act, or the commissioner's, to deal directly with money appropriated to the Minister out of the Consolidated Fund for the use or purpose for which it is appropriated. This is a function for the Minister to exercise. The Solicitor General concluded by stating, "I agree with the advice of the Crown Solicitor that the Minister's authority to determine whether or not to approve the particular expenditure was not affected by section 22 of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act." The chief commissioner clearly does not agree, and I believe that his allegations relate to his attitude in relation to that decision—why he is making these false and untrue claims.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Minister, I invite you to provide the Committee with the full advice and not the edited provisions that you have been providing.

Mr TROY GRANT: I am more than happy to do so.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The relevant advices are attached for the Committee's information.

9. DRUG DETECTION DOGS AND STRIP SEARCHES

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Minister and Commissioner, in 2016 as a result of police drug dog indications there were 590 strip searches but in 2017 as a result of police drug dog indications there were 1,124 strip searches. Why did the number of strip searches double, and is this at a direction from your office, Commissioner, or a change in policy?

Mr FULLER: Mr Chair, there has not been a change in policy in relation to strip searches. The Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act applies equally today as it did back in 2016. I would have to overlay the number of detections with the number of dance type parties to which we have been to see if there is a change in activity, but there has certainly been no direction nor would there be a direction from me in relation to do this other than applying the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act appropriately.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Commissioner, do you find the figure of 1,124 strip searches as a result of a drug dog indication surprisingly high?

Mr FULLER: Not if they have applied the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act and their training appropriately.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Do you know what proportion of those searches actually found drugs?

Mr FULLER: I would have to take that on notice.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): What if I was to tell you that answers given on notice to Parliament through the Minister showed that in almost two-thirds of those occasions no drugs were found?

Mr FULLER: We also know that in a high percentage of those cases people admit to having had drugs on their person at some stage.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Drugs were found following more than a third of searches.

10. REASON FOR INCREASED NUMBER OF STRIP SEARCHES

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): How can you be satisfied that they are applied appropriately when we saw almost a doubling of strip searches in just one year? There must be an explanation for it, Commissioner. What is it?

Mr FULLER: I will have to take it on notice, in terms of having a deeper dive into the reasons why. I would have to look at the amount of searches to see if there was increased activity at dance parties because of overdoses and the terrible things that happen when young people take illegal drugs.

ANSWER

I am advised:

No policy changes have influenced the increase in strip searches between 2016 and 2017.

11. ROADSIDE DRUG TESTING - COCAINE

Mr FULLER: When we start testing for cocaine with drivers shortly, we will be everywhere.

.....

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): I was asking you about strip searches. You are not going to start strip searching drivers, are you, as a result of roadside drug testing?

Mr FULLER: We will not have to because we have this wonderful test that you blow into, and that is definitive, is it not?

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Are you saying you are going to have a blow-into test for roadside drug testing?

Mr FULLER: Well, in the sense that you will be tested and there is a DNA-type swab in relation to it.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Are you saying there is a DNA swab?

Mr FULLER: No, sorry, like a buccal swab.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): So it is not blow in, it is not DNA. What is it?

Mr FULLER: It is a buccal swab. If you want me to give you the technical answer, I will provide that on notice to you.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Drivers stopped by Police for a roadside drug test are required to wipe a plastic test device called a 'drug wipe' from the back to the front of their tongue. This test provides an indication of whether prescribed illicit drugs may be present in the driver's oral fluid (saliva).

If a positive indication is shown by the drug wipe, the driver is then placed under arrest for the purpose of conducting a secondary test. The secondary test immediately analyses a sample of saliva for the presence of prescribed illicit drugs. A portion of

the saliva is also sent to a laboratory for confirmatory oral fluid analysis. A driver is not charged until the lab confirms the presence of prescribed illicit drugs.

12. REVIEW OF DRUG DOG OPERATIONS

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Apart from the Ombudsman's scathing review, which is almost a decade old, has there been a single evidence-based review of the New South Wales drug dog operations?

Mr TROY GRANT: I would have to take that on notice.

Mr FULLER: As would I, Mr Shoebridge. I have not asked for one in the past 18 months being Commissioner, but there could well have been one conducted.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is not aware of any other review of NSW Police Force drug dog operations.

13. DRUG DOG UNIT EXPENDITURE

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Is it true that the expenditure for the Drug Dog Unit is still in the order of about \$9 million a year, or has it increased?

Mr FULLER: I would have to take it on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Drug dog activities are only one component of the overall functions of the Dog Unit. The NSW Police Force does not specifically track the costs of drug detection dog operations.

14. COUNTER TERRORISM STAFF

A) The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Minister, how many staff were allocated to the investigation and counterterrorism unit from 2011 to now? Do you have those figures?

Mr TROY GRANT: No. I will have to take that on notice, Ms Voltz.

B) The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Do you know what the figure is for this year?

Mr TROY GRANT: I will take that on notice.

C) The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Are you aware of any staff cuts?

Mr TROY GRANT: To which command?

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: To the investigation and counterterrorism unit.

Mr TROY GRANT: I will defer to the commissioner. None that I am aware of.

Mr FULLER: Nor myself. Certainly we have put in place a Fixed Persons Investigation Unit, which was another 17 police. We have put in place the additional 35 positions this year through the extended supervision orders. I suggest that, unless there has been a change in commissioned officers through the re-engineering process—that could be a change—in my time there has been no direction to reduce staff there. I think you will find that the overall Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command would have grown reasonably much larger in the times you have spoken about—from 2011 to now. But I can provide definitive data for you on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

There were 381 positions in the Command as at 30 June 2011 and 425 positions as at 30 June 2018.

15. CLOSURE OF DRIVER AVENUE, MOORE PARK

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Minister, were you aware that the New South Wales police counterterrorism unit in 2017 recommended measures for the permanent closure of Driver Avenue, Moore Park?

Mr TROY GRANT: No, I am not aware of that.

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Did the Minister for Sport and the Minister for Counter Terrorism inform you that they were writing to the Minister for the Environment with those recommendations from the New South Wales police counterterrorism unit?

Mr TROY GRANT: I will have to check my office records. I do not recall. There was certainly no conversation between me and the Minister on that subject matter, but I will have to check my office records for any correspondence and provide an answer on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Ministers Ayres and Elliott sent my office a copy of the letter referred to.

16. REPORT RE CLOSURE OF DRIVER AVENUE, MOORE PARK

Mr FULLER: On a regular basis, commands and districts and the Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command work with owners of assets, and we provide risk assessments. They do not come through my office. They do not go through Mr Grant's office.

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: That is okay. Perhaps you could take on notice who requested that that report be done—

Mr FULLER: Absolutely.

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: —and who provided it to those Ministers' offices [*ie. Minister for Sport and Minister for Counter Terrorism*].

ANSWER

I am advised:

In 2017, the Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command completed a vulnerability assessment for the SCSG Trust. When the vulnerability assessment was completed, it was provided to the SCSG Trust and the Botanic Gardens & Centennial Parklands Trust.

17. CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MINISTER AND LECC COMMISSIONER

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Justice Adams, you said that you sent a letter to the Minister setting out your understanding of events. Could you provide a copy of that letter to this Committee on notice?

Mr ADAMS: Certainly.

ANSWER

This document was provided to the Committee Secretariat by me during the hearing.

18. CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MINISTER AND LECC COMMISSIONER

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Minister, have you provided any written communication responding to Justice Adams to put your position forward? Could you provide that to this Committee on notice?

Mr TROY GRANT: I am happy to provide every bit of correspondence that you require in relation to this matter.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Did you contest Justice Adams' version in correspondence that you sent to him?

.....

Mr TROY GRANT: I am happy to provide all correspondence between me and the chief commissioner that you seek. I do not recall, now, the contents of each piece of that correspondence.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Chief Commissioner's letter, which I provided to the Committee Secretariat during the hearing, is entirely consistent with me having made the Chief Commissioner aware of the position of the Police Association. There was not an alternate version put in that correspondence that needed to be contested.

19. SUSPECT TARGET MANAGEMENT PLANS

A) The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Minister, either to you or through you to the Commissioner, in the most recent 12 months, how many young people—that is, people aged under 17—have been placed on the suspect target management program list?

Mr FULLER: I can probably tell you how many are on at this point in time—obviously, on notice I can provide that information to you—but it rolls in the sense that you come on and off.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): I understand that; it is why I asked the question over the 12 months. You have previously given us that data, but if you could tell us how many are on the list now, that might be a starting point.

.....

Mr FULLER: At the moment I do not have the rolling total; I can get that for you on notice. At the moment, under the age of 18 there are currently 73 of the 622 people on STMP. That is not a rolling total, but as at when this would have run—probably yesterday or today.

B) The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Can you give us the rolling total for both young people—that is, aged under 18—and adults?

Mr FULLER: Yes.

C) The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): What proportion of those young people are Aboriginal?

Mr FULLER: Again, I cannot give you the rolling total in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, or those who are identified on our system as ATSI. Of the 622—please give me one moment—can I take the question on notice?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The breakdown of those identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, including juveniles, in the 12-month period ending 31 August 2018 was as follows:

STMP	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Total
17 years and under	111	269
18 years and above	346	1,251
Total	457	1,520

20. POLICE MEDIA UNIT CAMERAS

(see transcript p26-27)

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): How many cameras does the Police Media Unit have now?

Mr FULLER: When you talk about cameras, we have a multimedia unit, which is a very small unit. I am more than happy to get the exact number for you.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): I understand there are now three cameras associated with the Police Media Unit. Would that be right?

Mr FULLER: There might be three employees, but that hardly matches Channel 9, Channel 7, Channel 10, the ABC.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Public Affairs Branch Multimedia Unit consists of three camera operators, one photographer and one production assistant.

21. POLICE MEDIA UNIT STAFF

(see transcript p27)

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Commissioner, how many people are currently employed in the Police Media Unit?

Mr FULLER: I will take that on notice.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Would it be 50?

Mr FULLER: Yes, approximately

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Police Media Unit currently has 23 positions.

22. NSWPF MEDIA POLICY

(see transcript p28)

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Is there a clear written protocol under which this information is supplied and is that protocol public and transparent?

Mr FULLER: There is an absolutely strong media policy that we have developed over time with the media outlets and with oversights from other people in terms of the way we interact with the media.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): I invite you to provide that to us on notice, unless you have a copy of it there with you.

Mr FULLER: I do not.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force Media Policy is publicly available on the NSW Police Force website.

23. FIRE AND RESCUE NSW TRAINING ACADEMY

A) The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Minister, have you seen a case plan, business case or a lease for the Erskine Park training centre?

Mr TROY GRANT: I have seen multiple documents in relation to that facility. I would have to take the question on notice regarding specifics.

B) The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Media outlets have reported that \$80 million has been invested in the training facility. Can you advise if that is the correct amount?

Mr TROY GRANT: I understand that the value of that asset is in the \$80 million vicinity. It is a public-private partnership [PPP] project. I am happy to take on notice the New South Wales Government's contribution and the breakdown of the investment into that world-class facility.

.....

C) The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Essentially, it is being built by someone else and you are leasing it back from them?

Mr TROY GRANT: I will give you on notice the specifics of all the arrangements concerning the question you asked, but I am happy to defer to the commissioner if he would like to add anything.

.....

D) The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Then you lease that site back from the developer, is that correct?

Mr BAXTER: It is a leaseback, yes.

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Is that at \$6 million a year for 25 years?

Mr BAXTER: I would have to take on notice the actual leaseback cost.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The developer spent \$36 million on land cost for the site and \$33 million in construction costs for the Academy building and the warehouse. Fire & Rescue NSW will have exclusive access to the facility under a lease-back arrangement for up to 30 years.

A budget of \$18.2 million has been allocated for capital works on the Academy project. This is to fund the practical training area and will provide firefighters and other emergency services with realistic training scenarios.

24. FIRE AND RESCUE NSW NAME CHANGE

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: So Fire and Rescue is not being changed to use a plus sign?

Mr BAXTER: The use of the plus symbol instead of "and" has not been changed in our actual name. It will, however, be used on logos.

.....

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Can you provide to the Committee on notice any costs associated with the name change?

Mr BAXTER: Happy to do that. They were previously provided under a Government Information (Public Access) Act [GIPAA] release and I think they have been published in the papers as well.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The costs associated with the logo change were part of a broader piece of work regarding the identity of Fire & Rescue NSW and the community perception and understanding of its role. The new logo is simply one aspect of the agency's new strategic direction.

25. FRNSW AERIAL APPLIANCES FUNDING

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Minister, have you approved any additional capital expenditure for the introduction of the aerial appliances, given places such as Revesby and Manly have had to have their floors dug out to accommodate them and we are now finding out that the next tranche will be even larger?

Mr TROY GRANT: I do not believe so but I will take the question on notice to be sure.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Aerial appliances are appropriately housed at locations throughout the state and there are multiple additional locations that can appropriately house new aerals.

26. FRNSW BUDGET AND WAGE RISE

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Through you Minister to Commissioner Baxter: Firefighters are due a 2.5 per cent wage rise. Has the budget for Fire & Rescue

NSW been sufficiently increased to provide that wage rise and retain or extend the number of firefighters?

Mr BAXTER: My understanding is that we do budget for that and I understand as part of our normal budgeting process that 2.5 per cent would be allowed for. I will take the question on notice to ensure that my answer is correct.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Consistent with prior years, the 2018-19 Budget for Fire & Rescue NSW incorporates funding for wage rises of 2.5 per cent.

27. CLIMATE CHANGE - COST IMPACT ON FIRE SERVICES

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Have you done any costings through your office or directed the agencies to do any costings about the financial impact simply for the provision of fire services as a result of our changing climate?

Mr TROY GRANT: Not in the way the question is framed, but I can take on notice to give you a more broad answer in relation to that.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Fire & Rescue NSW and NSW Rural Fire Service are not aware of any costings in this regard.

28. CLIMATE CHANGE - RESEARCH

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Could any of the agencies or you, Minister, provide on notice what research you have relied on for climate change? The only one I have heard so far is that which comes from the Insurance Council of Australia—if that is the only research.

Mr FITZSIMMONS: I have tried to explain to you, Chair, if I may.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): If that is the research, could you provide the detail on notice?

Mr TROY GRANT: We are happy to.

Mr FITZSIMMONS: On the site of the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre there are copious amounts of material. To try to provide that to you would be impossible.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): You can indicate what you are relying upon on notice as best you can.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The NSW RFS is represented on the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) climate change working group and also works in collaboration with the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre. Fire & Rescue NSW is also a member of AFAC, and uses research by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre. Other significant research partners are the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, the University of Wollongong and the University of New South Wales.

Some key pieces of research include:

- The Bureau of Meteorology has recently published an analysis titled "Climatological Variability of Fire Weather in Australia".
- The Office of Environment and Heritage has produced a series of reports on climate change impacts.

29. LABOUR EXPENSE CAP - FRNSW BUDGET

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Commissioner Baxter, what is the impact of the labour efficiency requirements on your budget?

Mr BAXTER: It has been a challenge for us and we continue to try to meet the labour expense cap [LEC] requirements.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): What is the labour expense cap, which is how it is described?

....

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): What is the budgetary impact on your agency and what does it mean in dollar terms and staffing terms?

Mr BAXTER: This financial year I think our total labour expense cap is around \$25 million—I stand corrected on the exact amount, but approximately that. We have been able to meet that target over the last number of years through good management. It is continuing to be a pressure and it will continue to be a pressure for us in this current financial year and I would expect the next financial year. We have been able to reduce the total impact of the LEC by offsetting revenue against it, which has made it somewhat easier for us to attain.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): If you can give any more detail about those projections on notice I would appreciate it.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Fire & Rescue NSW is committed to carefully managing employee related expenses.

30. HOMICIDE SQUAD STAFF

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): Perhaps on notice you could give us the full-time equivalent staffing historically for the past five years for that.

Mr FULLER: Of the unsolved Homicide Squad or the Homicide Squad?

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr SHOEBRIDGE): The Homicide Squad.

ANSWER

I am advised:

There were 91 positions across the State Crime Command Homicide Squad and Unsolved Homicide Squad as at 30 June 2014. There were 96 positions in these squads as at 30 June 2018.
